

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Device for extracting liquid samples from containers and/or tubes filled with a medium, ~~in particular from fermenters~~, via a filter membrane by means of a partial vacuum, characterised in that the filter membrane arranged within a sample probe comprises a material acting as a sterile boundary, whereby a supply line which can be used to guide gas and a discharge line which can be used to guide the sample are arranged on the sterile boundary side of the filter membrane.
2. (Original) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the material acting as a sterile boundary is hydrophilic.
3. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the supply line which can be used to guide gas contains a hydrophobic gas.
4. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the supply line which can be used to guide gas and the discharge line are designed to be suitable to supply and discharge gas with overpressure to and from the filter membrane.
5. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the supply line which is able to guide gas is connected to a first gas-bearing connecting line to connect the supply line to a gas supply connection.

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6. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 5, characterised in that a first and second valve are arranged in the area of the first and second end of the connecting line.
7. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 5, characterised in that a pressure sensor is arranged in the gas-bearing connecting line.
8. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 5, characterised in that a first sterile filter is arranged in the gas-bearing connecting line.
9. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the supply and discharge lines are designed to be suitable to supply and discharge rinsing liquids to and from the filter membrane.
10. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 9, characterised in that the supply line is connected to a second rinsing liquid-bearing connecting line.
11. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 10, characterised in that the rinsing liquid-bearing connecting line is connected to a container containing a rinsing liquid.
12. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 11, characterised in that the second container is connected to a rinsing liquid supply connection ~~is~~ via a gas and rinsing liquid connecting line with an another sterile filter arranged therein.

13. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 11, characterised in that the second container is connected to another gas supply connection via a gas and rinsing liquid connecting line with another sterile filter arranged therein.
14. (Previously Presented) Device according to claim 1, characterised in that the discharge line is connected to a device acting as a valve.
15. (Currently Amended) Method for extracting liquid samples from containers and/or tubes filled with a medium ~~in particular from fermenters~~, via a filter membrane by means of a partial vacuum ~~characterized by~~ comprising the following steps:
 - supplying the supply of the a gas to the filter membrane arranged in the same probe and comprising a material acting as a sterile boundary on the sterile boundary side of the filter membrane by means of a supply line which may be closed against other lines by at least one valve
 - discharging the discharge of the gas from the filter membrane by means of the discharge line and opening of a device arranged in the discharge line functioning as a valve until the supply and discharge lines are sample-free
 - closing the closure of at least one valve to uncouple the supply line from the gas supply connection
 - extracting the extraction of the required volume of the sample from the medium by means of the discharge line and a partial vacuum present in the discharge line,

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- ~~transporting the transportation of~~ the sample out of the discharge line by means of new gas supplied by means of overpressure.
16. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 15, characterised in that to avoid clogging and jamming within the discharge line caused by the constituents of the sample, after the step in which the sample is transported out of the discharge line, a rinsing liquid is supplied via the supply line and discharged via the discharge line.
17. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 16, characterised in that, after the step in which the rinsing liquid is supplied and discharged, the steps in which the gas is supplied and discharged are repeated.
18. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 15, characterised in that an integrity test for checking/validating the sampling function comprises the following steps:
- ~~closing the closure of~~ the discharge line by a device acting as a valve
 - ~~supplying the supply of~~ gas to the supply and discharge ~~lined lines~~ to generate a defined overpressure
 - ~~closing the closure of~~ another valve to uncouple the gas supply connection from the supply line with the involvement of a pressure sensor
 - ~~observing the observation of~~ any possible gas and/or liquids entering/or leaving the pipe system, and

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- observing ~~the observation~~ of the pressure stability by means of the pressure sensor as an indicator of the integrity of the filter membrane.